

SJJAC Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Friday June 22, 2018

Present

Dawn Williams (ODS, Co-Chair), Romie Griesmer (CJC staff), Michelle Darling (DSCYF/DYRS), Emella Kamara (OCA), Kate Parker (DCJ), Kirstin Cornnell (DCJ), Addie Asay (Family Court), Monika Germono (ODS), Meghan Crist (ODS), Alanna Farber (ODS), Brian Moore (DOE), Abby Layton (DOJ), Stephanie Volturo (OCC), Stephanie Volturo (OCC), Alice Eakin (DLS), Debra O'Neal (DSCYF), Donna Pugh (YRS – Civil Citation), Kitty Lunger (ODS, by phone).

A. Opening

The meeting was called to order by Dawn Williams at 10:00 am .

The January 2018 minutes were approved.

The “Year in Review” document was provided to the group via email and in person at the meeting. This document outlines the progress that has been made since the implementation grant began. Dawn Williams asked the group to review the document and credited the collaboration of the group and other agencies with implementing many of the improvements in the Strategic Plan.

The CJC will file a No Cost Extension Request for the Implementation Grant as the end date of this grant is September 30, 2018.

An OJJDP grant application was submitted in May 2018 by the CJC. The application requested funding for ODS attorneys to represent children at initial appearance hearings in the JP Court. Currently, ODS does not have any attorneys staffed in the JP Courts and children are unrepresented at these hearings which can result in detention. ODS does not have the resources to staff the JP Courts. If this funding is received, ODS would staff the JP Courts statewide to represent children at initial appearance.

Various juvenile justice bills were introduced and are in various stages in the Legislature. These bills include: changes to some of the minimum mandatory sentences in Family Court, discretionary transfer of PFDCF, juvenile expungement, civil citation, and transfer to YCOP. The final bills will be sent to the group once they are all passed and signed by the Governor in their final form.

B. Work Group Updates

1. Education: Alanna Farber and Meghan Crist provided the update for this group. Meetings have been held and the group has begun to develop resources for youth and families. The group is working on resources for families and schools regarding transition back to school.
2. DMC: Monika Germono provided the update for this group. This group is looking at DMC as it relates to Civil Citation. The group is also reviewing a law enforcement training program from Pennsylvania that works on interaction between the police and children. This program is used in police academies in Pennsylvania. We would like to see this program implemented as part of the new grant; however, information about the program needs to be shared with the pre-arrest work group of that grant committee. We hope to share information with the committee at its next meeting on July 11, 2018

Donna Pugh shared that she has incorporated adolescent brain development into her civil citation training. Brian Moore shared that the Dept. of Education had a project this year which elicited submissions of videos from children about interaction with police during motor vehicle stops. Brian commented that the student submissions were very impressive.

3. Pretrial Detention: Kitty Lunger and & Kate Parker West provided the update for this group. Kate and Kitty have the final data report from the University of Delaware analysis and they have to set a date to meet and discuss the analysis. Preliminary information reflects that there are dramatic differences between bail set by Family Court and the Justice of the Peace Court ("JP Court") with more children being detained by the JP Courts. JJAG had its first pretrial subcommittee meeting where various issues were discussed including the fact that Delaware does not have a separate probable cause hearing/finding. There was also discussion about the fact that Delaware still has cash bail. Brian Moore raised the issue of no-contact provisions in bail orders being a problem for schools. Kate offered to contact the JP Court about the no-contact provisions and explain the issue. This can be rectified by the provision of "no unlawful contact."
4. Post-Disposition: Dawn Williams gave this update for Lisa Minutola and Tricia Widdoss. There was an Expungement Clinic held in April at Skadden and approximately 40 petitions were filed. Skadden is sponsoring another clinic on July 20, 2018. A clinic was held in Sussex County in partnership with SDARJ on June 21, 2018. Approximately 30 petitions will be filed from this clinic. SDARJ obtained some funding to help with the cost associated with obtaining

criminal records. An expungement training was held for ODS law student interns on May 30, 2018. ODS has three (3) clerks from Delaware Law School last year with one (1) law clerk continuing next semester. ODS would like to again attend Table Day at the law school to recruit more law students. Alanna Farber and Meghan Crist continue to provide education on expungement and post-disposition to community partners. There was also legislation introduced this session regarding juvenile expungement. Under this new bill, felonies terminated in one's favor are immediately eligible for expungement. Alanna and Meghan are beginning to plan a NCC expungement week. DHSS has been a great referral service for ODS clients and families. Alanna has also been contacted regarding the possibility of making a video about expungements. Many people do not realize that an arrest still appears on their record if their case was dropped or dismissed. There was also an issue discussed regarding PBAD, entry of PBAD disposition, and discharge of probation which is being addressed by the appropriate agencies.

5. Training & Education: Dawn Williams provided the update for this group. A juvenile justice conference was held in April 2018 at Delaware Law School. The conference was well attended and received positive feedback. There was a panel with various stakeholders discussing best practices and a speaker on trafficking. A JTIP training was held in March and another JTIP training will be held in August. This work group has begun planning the September 14th summit at the Chase Center. Dawn provided some information about potential topics and speakers. Dawn also asked for any topic/speaker suggestions and she asked agencies to communicate the date to its staff.

C. Update on Statewide Improvement Grant

Romie Griesmer provided the update on the Statewide Improvement Grant. There will be a meeting in July 2018.

D. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 7, 2018 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon – location TBA.

E. No Public Comment – No Public Attendees

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 am.